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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,135	03/08/2005	Joanna Ng	CA920020068US1	9468

70854 7590 10/16/2009

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2456	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/16/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to communications filed on March 8, 2005.

Claims 5-17 have been cancelled, claims 19-33 added, thus claims 1-4 and 18-33 are pending in the application.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification does not disclose what "a computer readable signal bearing storage medium" entails.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because the drawings sheets are imprinted with Foreign Application Number and/or PCT application number. It is noted, identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and within the top margin.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure

must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-4 and 18-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 19 and 28 recites the limitation "An apparatus" in line 1. Absent an explicit and deliberate definition in the specification or limiting claim language, the broadest reasonable interpretation of "An apparatus" which would fairly conveyed to one of ordinary skill in the art is "an embodiment of software components". Therefore, claims 1, 19 and 28 are rejected as a system of software per se, failing to fall within a statutory category of invention.

Dependent claims 2-4, 20-27 and 29-31 are rejected under the same basis.

Claims 18 and 32-32 recite the limitation "An article comprising a computer readable-signal bearing storage medium" in lines 1-2. In view of Applicant's disclosure, specification page 16, line 3-6, the medium is being defined as including intangible embodiments (e.g., The medium may be selected from the group consisting of magnetic, optical, biological, and atomic data storage media as appropriate. The medium may be a modulated carrier signal. The signal may be a transmission over a network). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-4 and 18-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hesmer et al ("Portlet Development Guide, Working with the Portlet API", pages 1-83, Edition 1.1, April 2, 2002).

Regarding claim 1, Hesmer also discloses an apparatus comprising:

a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to the web application (§2. Overview, page 6);

a portlet application for operating on the portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4 Portlet Applications, pages 10-11);

the portlet application comprising:

means to initiate portlets on requests of a user to access the web application (§2. Overview, page 6; §2.3 Portlet Concepts, pages 9-10);

means to manage a portlet application session object for the portlets (§3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20); and,

a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating the portlets with the portlet application session object (§PortletSession, page 20; and §7.2.2. Storing data, page 62-63).

Claim 18 is rejected under the same basis.

Regarding claim 2, Hesmer also discloses the portlet application further comprises a portlet application communication client for communicating between the portlet application session object and the web application to convey user requests received from the associated portlets to the web application (The listener can access the PortletRequest from the event and respond using the PortletRequest or PortletSession attributes; §3.3.1. PortletSessionListener, page 22, §5.1. Portlet Events, and §5.1.1. Action events, pages 44-45).

Regarding claim 3, Hesmer also discloses the portlet application is further configured to assign a common key to each portlet associated with the portlet application session object (The PersistentConnection object uses a state object to keep track of session states; §8.1.1. Persistent Backend Connections Concept and §8.1.2. Persistent Backend Connections Concept, pages 66-67).

Regarding claim 4, Hesmer also discloses a user session information table configured to connect to multiple web applications with the portlet application session object (The Persistent Backend Connections Pool is implemented by a Java Hashtable; 8.1.3. Persistent Backend Connections Service in a Cluster, page 67).

Regarding claim 19, Hesmer discloses an apparatus for use with multiple associated portlets in a web portal, the apparatus comprising:

means for managing the multiple associated portlets (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4 Portlet Applications, pages 10-11);

a portlet application data store (The portlet container stores user session information in the PortletSession Object; §5.1. Portlet events, page 44; and §7.2.2. Storing Data, pages 62-63); and

means for granting read/write access to the portlet application data store by the multiple associated portlets to enable the multiple associated portlets to exchange data among each other (Information stored in the portlet's instance variables is shared between all concrete portlet instances and even between all concrete portlets - with read and write access; §3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20).

Claim 32 is rejected under the same basis.

Regarding claim 20, Hesmer also discloses the means for managing the multiple associated portlets comprises a portlet application (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4 Portlet Applications, pages 10-11).

Regarding claim 21, Hesmer also discloses means for managing a portlet application session object, wherein the portlet application session object is configured to manage the portlet application data store (§3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20; §5.1. Portlet events, page 44; and §7.2.2. Storing Data, pages 62-63).

Regarding claim 22, Hesmer also discloses the means for granting read/write access to the portlet application data store comprises the portlet application session object (Information stored in the portlet's instance variables is shared between all concrete portlet instances and even between all concrete portlets - with read and write access; §3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20).

Regarding claim 23, Hesmer also discloses the apparatus comprises a portlet server capable of operating on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in the web portal accessible to a user (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4. Portlet Applications, pages 10-11).

Regarding claim 24, Hesmer also discloses means for creating the portlet application session object for the user (§3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20).

Regarding claim 25, Hesmer also discloses further comprising:

means for creating and managing a key for the user for the portlet application session object (The unique ID is used to identify persistent connection and stored in the PortletSession object; §8.1.1. Persistent Backend Connection concept, page 66); and

means for granting the key to each associated portlet for controlling access to the portlet application session object (The unique ID is stored in the PortletSession object. Without it, the connection cannot be retrieved from the pool; §8.1. Persistent Backend Connection, pages 66-68).

Regarding claim 26, Hesmer also discloses the apparatus comprises a portlet application capable of operating on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in a web portal accessible by the user (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4. Portlet Applications, pages 10-11).

Regarding claim 27, Hesmer also discloses one portlet application is assigned to each user, and one key is assigned respectively for each user to respective portlet application session objects for each portlet application (The unique ID is stored in the PortletSession object. Without it, the connection cannot be retrieved from the pool; §8.1. Persistent Backend Connection, pages 66-68).

Regarding claim 28, Hesmer also discloses an apparatus for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application, the apparatus comprising:

a portal server for operating the web portal to provide access to the web application by the user (§2. Overview, page 6);

a portlet application, for managing a managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on the portal server (§2. Overview, page 6; and §2.4 Portlet Applications, pages 10-11);

a portlet application session object for the user for the associated portlets (§3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20);

a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object (§3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20; and §7.2.2. Storing data, page 62-63); and

a portlet application communication client linked to the portlet application session object data store for communicating between the associated portlets and the web application to convey user requests received from the associated portlets to the web application (the persistent connection is used for communicating between the associated portlets and the backend service; §8.1. Persistent Backend Connection, pages 66-68), wherein the portlet application communication client comprises:

a request buffer for storing requests from the associated portlets to enable the portlet application communication client to generate requests relative to the web application (getReceiveBuffer() and getSendBuffer ();§8.1.2 Using the PersistentConnection object, page 66-67).

Claim 33 is rejected under the same basis.

Regarding claim 29, Hesmer also discloses portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests synchronized to the web application (the "last state" object helps to keep the code in sync with the session state of the connection, even if the portlet code gets interrupted; §8.1.4 Usage example; page 67-68), to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to

the requests from the web application (Use getReceiveBuffer() and getSendBuffer to retrieve input and output streams for the connection; §8.1.4 Usage example; page 67-68).

Regarding claim 30, Hesmer also discloses portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application (if the portlet runs in a cluster environment where the session is being serialized to a shared database, everything that is stored in the session must be serialized too, inherently including the generated requests; §3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20); to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application (Use getReceiveBuffer() and getSendBuffer to retrieve input and output streams for the connection; §8.1.4 Usage example; page 67-68).

Regarding claim 31, Hesmer also discloses portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application (if the portlet runs in a cluster environment where the session is being serialized to a shared database, everything that is stored in the session must be serialized too, inherently including the generated requests; §3.2.3. PortletSession, page 20), to send information including the requests over a network to the web application server, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application server (Use GetReceiveBuffer() and GetSendBuffer to retrieve input and output streams for the connection; §8.1.4 Usage example; page 67-68).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Method for Dynamically Integrating Remote Portlet Into Portals (US 7,502,833), Schaeck;

Dynamic, Real-Time Integration of Software Resources Through Services of Content Framework, Fletcher et al (US 7,343,428);

Portal Using Model View Controller (US 7,305,679), Kovacs et al;

System and Method for Application Flow Integration in a Portal Framework, Jolley et al (US 7,240,280); and

Portal/Portlet Application Data Synchronization, Jones et al (US 7,103,844).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Van Kim T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3073. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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